

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

*Please amend paragraph [0039] as follows:*

[0039] The coupling substantially as so far described is readily useful for connecting two pipes of equal (or even unequal) diameters, as depicted in FIGS. 6 and 7, where similar reference numerals are used to denote already identified parts and components. As illustrated pipe 110 includes circumferential grooves 110a and 210a. Bolts 114 and 214 form a grip around the ring 118 when tightened.

*Please amend paragraph [0044] as follows:*

[0044] Rather than employing a split ring, it is possible to have it composed of more than one segment (two segments in ring 518 in FIG. 10 and three in ring 618 in FIG. 11), held together by a rubber band (524 and 624, respectively).